and pricing of chemicals. Therefore, cost of production of chemicals is not monitored by the Government.

As far as the production cost of fertilizers in the country is concerned, it is dependent on the type of feedstock used and its cost. Costlier the feedstock, more is the cost of production of indigenous fertilizers. At present, the cost of production of indigenous urea is less than the cost of imported urea. The present weighted average cost of production of indigenous urea is Rs. 8494 per metric tonne, the cost (C & F) of imported urea is Rs. 11073 per metric tonne. There is no separate monitoring of cost of production of fertilizers in other countries.

The country is totally dependent on imports for manufacturing its indigenous Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP). Almost entire quantity of ammonia and phosphoric acid is imported by DAP manfuacturers. Similarly, the units, which use rock phosphate and manufacture their own phosphoric acid, are also dependent upon imported rock phosphate and imported sulphur for their entire requirement. Thus, the cost of indigenous DAP is primarily dependent upon the prices of raw material/intermediates prevailing in the international market.

Introduction of WR system

†1875. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are to introduce Warehouse Receipt (WR) System instead of purchasing the foodgrains from the farmers at minimum support price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete arrangements made by Government to ensure that the benefit of this system is passed on to the small and medium farmers only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to discontinue the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

purchasing of foodgrains from the farmers at minimum support price, however, the Government is considering introducing a negotiable Warehouse Receipt (WR) system in the country.

(c) The system would be introduced with a legislative back up to ensure that the benefit of this system is passed on to small and medium farmers.

Streamlining sugar prices

1876. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for steep hike in the prices of sugar in the country, as the prices have increased by 75 per cent from that were a few months back;

(b) whether traders are responsible for creating temporary shortage, if so, the action taken by Government;

(c) whether Government are proposing to import sugar to streamline the prices in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There has been no steep increase of 75% in prices of sugar in the recent few months, as may be seen from the table below:

Centre	Jan. 05	Feb.05	March.05*
Delhi	19.00	20.00	20.00
Mumbai	19.50	19.50	19.50
Kolkata	20.00	20.00	21.00
Chennai	18.50	18.00	18.00

*Price as on 10.3.2005

SOURCE: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Department of
Consumer Affairs (Price Monitoring Cell), Government of India, New Delhi.